

August 30, 2011

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Congressman Altmire said:

"Under Mr. Melson's leadership, the ATF has neglected its most important duty: to prevent the purchase and use of firearms by those who could wreak havoc on our communities. The ATF needs a fresh start, and I hope the President will use this opportunity to appoint someone willing and capable of working with Congress to responsibly enforce the laws regarding the sale and use of firearms."

This year, Congressman Altmire joined 30 Democrats in sending a letter to President Obama expressing concerns over the lack of response to Congressional inquiries into the ATF's "Project Gunrunner" and "Operation Fast and Furious." The programs were intended to monitor weapons purchases by suspected gun smugglers. Recent reports have indicated that ATF allowed suspected smugglers to buy large quantities of firearms illegally. In addition, the ATF lost track of weapons sold in the program, including a firearm used in the murder of a Border Patrol Agent.

As a strong supporter of Second Amendment rights, Congressman Altmire is also the lead Democratic sponsor of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE) Reform Act (H.R. 1093). This bipartisan legislation would clarify regulations and remove unnecessary restrictions on federally licensed firearms dealers and importers in the United States.

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